

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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R 221042Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27939

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, FR, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD

D'ESTAING

SUMMARY: IN MY FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, HE STRESSED LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICS ON HIS FREEDOM OF MANEUVER AND EXPRESSED HOPE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT WOULD RESULT IN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON TACTICS FOR MEETING ENERGY PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

1. I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 21, THE SIXTH AMBASSADOR TO DO SO AT FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVALS. AFTER BRIEF CEREMONY I JOINED PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE DESTREMAU FOR FIFTEEN MINUTE DISCUSSION.

2. PRESIDENT GISCARD SAID HE WAS EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN MARTINIQUE. HE TOLD ME HE WAS A FIRM BELIEVER IN COOPERATION AND FELT THERE WERE BROAD AREAS IN WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES MUST COOPERATE.

3. HE THEN PROMPTLY REFERRED TO THE ENERGY SITUATION. HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT CONFRONTATION WAS NOT THE SOLUTION AND FOR THIS REASON HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS THAT THERE BE A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRODUCERS.

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HE CLEARLY IMPLIED HE BELIEVED THERE WAS AMPLE ROOM

FOR COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE DURING THE MARTINIQUE MEETINGS, ONE WHICH WOULD PRESERVE THE OBJECTIVES THAT EACH OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES SOUGHT. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT OUR DIFFERENCES WERE MORE A MATTER OF TACTICS ON HOW WE ACHIEVED OUR RESPECTIVE OBJECTIVES.

4. PRESIDENT GISCARD THEN CONTINUED POINTING OUT THAT DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS WERE IMPORTANT FOR HIM. THOSE ON THE EXTREME LEFT HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. HE FOUND IT NECESSARY NOT TO ALIENATE THOSE ON THE RIGHT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A WORKING MAJORITY IN THE ASSEMBLY, AND IN THAT REGARD HE HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TO BE GIVING IN TO U.S. "DOMINATION."

5. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS WERE ALSO A VITAL FACTOR AS FAR AS U.S. POLICY WAS CONCERNED. THE DANGER AS I SAW IT WAS NOT A DANGER OF U.S. DOMINATION BUT RATHER OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AND A TURNING INWARD ON OURSELVES. THERE WERE MANY IN OUR COUNTRY THAT THOUGHT WE SHOULD SOLVE OUR OWN ENERGY AND OTHER PROBLEMS WITHOUT BEING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 27939

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OVERLY CONCERNED FOR THE PROBLEMS OTHERS FACED.
THEREFORE OUR WORK WAS CUT OUT FOR US NOT ONLY INTER-

NATIONALLY, INCLUDING FRANCE, BUT ALSO WE HAD TO PERSUADE OUR OWN PEOPLE OF THE CONTINUED DESIRABILITY OF DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS IN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK.

6. PRESIDENT GISCARD REITERATED THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ROOM TO WORK OUT A NEW APPROACH BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO PUSH FORWARD IN TRYING TO MEET THE ENERGY ISSUE. HE ADDED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND ENERGY COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ALONE.

7. I TOLD HIM THAT IF WE COULD NOT COOPERATE ON ENERGY THEN IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO COOPERATE ON MONETARY, TRADE AND OTHER ISSUES. I ADDED THAT I FELT THAT PROBLEMS IN THE PAST BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN EXACERBATED BY INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION. THE PRESIDENT AGREED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO CLEAR UP SUCH ISSUES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AT MARTINIQUE. HE SAID HE SINCERELY LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH PRESIDENT FORD TO REACH COMMON AGREEMENT ON AN APPROACH TO OUR ENERGY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT MARTINIQUE.

8. COMMENT: CAREFUL PLANS HAD BEEN MADE IN ADVANCE TO ASSURE THAT OUR CONVERSATION NOT CONTINUE BEYOND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE APPOINTED TIME. WHEN PERIOD EXPIRED, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL APPEARED AND OSTENTATIOUSLY WAITED UNTIL OUR CONVERSATION WAS FINISHED. AT THAT POINT THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MORE LEISURELY DISCUSSIONS WITH ME FROM TIME TO TIME.

RUSH

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